



METRO PAINT-A-THON APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

SENIOR CITIZENS AND THOSE WITH disabilities whose homes are in need of a fresh coat of paint are encouraged to apply for the 2004 Metro Paint-A-Thon to be held **August 7 - 8**. Homeowners must meet income guidelines. Homes are inspected and ranked in terms of need. Application deadline is May 10. For more information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



GIVE BUCKTHORN THE BOOT HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THIS NOXIOUS WEED

BUCKTHORN GROWS QUICKLY, CHOKING out beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that also support wildlife. As areas around the city become infested with buckthorn, other problems result including soil erosion and poor water quality. Help stop the spread of buckthorn by removing it from your property. You can also volunteer to remove buckthorn in parks through the City's Adopt-a-Park program. Free tool kits that include a weed wrench and loppers are available for removing small plants. For more information, call 952-563-8751. *See page 6 for disposal options.*

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES DIVERSITY DAY EVENT

IN CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY DAY, Bloomington High School students and community members will join together for a "Run for Peace" race on **Thursday, April 22**. A dedication ceremony to proclaim Kennedy High School as an Official Peace Site will be held after the run. Jefferson High School, already an Official Peace Site, will hold a rededication ceremony. For information, call 952-563-8733; 952-563-8740 V/TTY.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2004 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

ATTEND THE SALES OR HOLD YOUR OWN

WHEN CLEANING OUT FOR THE CURBSIDE CLEANUP, DID YOU COME ACROSS ITEMS THAT you could sell? Why not hold your own garage sale at this three-day event sponsored by Human Services? The 5th Annual Citywide Garage Sale will be held **June 3, 4 and 5**. Registration is \$20 and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry of sale addresses. Deadline is May 19.

Purchase your official garage sale list for \$2 beginning June 1 at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Lists are also available on the City's Web Site. Proceeds benefit the Senior Program. For information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



LIVING GREEN EXPO 2004 BENEFIT FROM A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE LIFE

MORE THAN 200 exhibitors will showcase environmentally sound products, services and practices at Minnesota's Living Green Expo, **Saturday - Sunday, May 1 - 2**, from **10 a.m. - 6 p.m.** This family-friendly event will be held in the Education Building at the **Minnesota State Fair Grounds**, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, and includes art displays, children's activities, food and entertainment. For information, visit www.livinggreenexpo.org or call Jeff Stuhr at 651-215-0218.



BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO) BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, USA – IZUMI CITY, JAPAN

SINCE 1993, BLOOMINGTON HAS ENJOYED A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SISTER CITY relationship with Izumi City, Japan. BSCO works to establish friendships, build understanding and develop economic relationships between the two cities. For more information, call Lorinda Pearson at 952-563-8735.

JAPANESE DELEGATION TO VISIT IN MAY

A Japanese middle school brass band delegation of 40 students, eight chaperones, and Izumi City Mayor Inada and his wife will visit Bloomington, May 12 - 17. During their stay, Izumi City students will perform in concert with Bloomington's middle school students.



CELEBRATE KITE DAY

In honor of Children's Day, a Japanese national holiday that celebrates the health and happiness of all children, BSCO and the City of Bloomington present Kite Day 2004. Bring your own kite; make one or buy one on site. This free family event will be held at **Valley View Playfields**, 90th and Portland, on **Saturday, May 15, at 1 p.m.**

YOUTH SERVICE DAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

HEY KIDS! PLANT A TREE. CLEAN UP A PARK OR STREET. GET INVOLVED WITH YOUTH service opportunities coordinated by Human Services throughout the month of April. Youth who volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet and be recognized for their work. For more information, call 952-563-8787; 952-563-8740 TTY, or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree at West Bush Lake on Saturday, May 1.



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR YOU

LOCATED AT 9801 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, **Creekside Community Center** houses the Human Service's Senior Program. For information on activities, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

CREEKSIDE MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

THE SENIOR PROGRAM WILL host a variety of events in May to celebrate Older Americans' Month, including:

- Older Americans' Month Breakfast.
 - National Senior Health/Fitness Day and Fun Walk.
 - Spring Music Show.
 - Special Life is Like a Valued Patchwork program.
- For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

LIFE IS LIKE A VALUED PATCHWORK

LIFE IS LIKE A VALUED PATCHWORK programs are held on Wednesdays, from 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Creekside. Cost is \$3 and includes a continental breakfast. To register, call Creekside. For transportation, call 952-563-4948.

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| April 28 | Walking for the Health of It. |
| May 19 | Improving Your Golf Game. |
| June 23 | Advance Funeral Planning. |

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDES ASSISTANCE for families in need. For more information, call Denise Royer, Alissa Beckman or Jackie Doncavage at Creekside.

Furniture referrals

Lower income families who are in need of basic furniture may be eligible to receive these items through the nonprofit organization Bridging, Inc. Those with limited furniture due to a fire or domestic abuse situation may also be eligible.

Working through issues

Support teams are made up of individuals who can help you identify your goals. If you are a Bloomington family with children under 18 years of age and are working with multiple complex issues including housing, school or employment, you are eligible for assistance through the support team process. This program is aided and supported through a grant from the Hennepin South Services Collaborative.